

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK



STEVEN BELLONE
SUFFOLK COUNTY EXECUTIVE

JENNIFER BLASKE, ESQ.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DEPARTMENT OF LAW
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

RABBI DR. STEVEN A. MOSS
CHAIRPERSON

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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County Executive Bellone Makes New Appointments to Human Rights Commission

(Hauppauge, NY – July 5, 2012) – Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone, with legislative approval, has appointed two new members to the Suffolk County Human Rights Commission and reappointed Human Rights Commission Chairperson Rabbi Dr. Steven A. Moss to a new term, as well as Vice-Chair Lynda Perdomo-Ayala and members Michele Del Monte, and Dr. Carolyn Peabody. The two new members are Luis Rodriguez, Esq. and Dr. Luis Valenzuela.

“The work of the Suffolk County Human Rights Commission is extremely vital to ensuring equal opportunity and equal rights for all,” said County Executive Bellone. “Mr. Rodriguez and Dr. Valenzuela are welcomed additions to the Commission as they will continue to emphasize the importance of diversity and equality.”

"The Commission is grateful for the support shown by County Executive Bellone and the Legislature in the important work of the Commission by these appointments and reappointments," said Rabbi Moss. He continued, "With the remaining appointments and reappointments that will take place later this summer, the Commission can, with the first complement of 15 members in many years, take on many of the important human rights issues that Suffolk County faces."

Mr. Rodriguez and Dr. Valenzuela will join the 15-member Commission, which is comprised of dedicated community leaders and advocates, who, through their personal and professional lives, have demonstrated their tireless commitment to human rights by promoting the values of equality, respect and dignity, while fighting against discrimination, intolerance and exclusion.

“It is an honor to be appointed to the Suffolk County Human Rights Commission,” said Dr. Luis Valenzuela. “I look forward to working with the Committee and to serving the people of Suffolk County. There is no doubt that Suffolk County can be a model for inclusion for the rest of the nation.”

The office of the Suffolk County Human Rights Commission continues to work diligently on behalf of all Suffolk County residents to achieve equal opportunity for all. Under the direction of Executive Director, Jennifer Blaske, office staff investigate complaints of discrimination, primarily in the areas of employment, housing and public accommodations when the discrimination is based on the individual's race, color, creed, national origin, sex, disability, age, marital status, sexual orientation, familial status, conviction record or military status. In addition to investigating complaints, the Commission provides training and education on human rights and diversity to private organizations, civic groups and government agencies.